



Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Winter 2022 Holiday Edition

The Power of Sponsorship

Having just returned from a visit to our projects in Tanzania, our group experienced and reflected on many profound issues our students are combating. The list includes human trafficking, child marriage, forced pregnancy, extreme poverty, the challenges for children with special needs in a developing country, tribalism, nepotism, and drought caused by climate change. However, we also experienced amazing examples of resilience, empowerment, self determination, trust, hope and humbling examples of success despite the challenges mentioned above.

The love, faith, and dogged determination of our students and graduates is truly inspiring. I left Tanzania with respect and admiration for the students, staff, and the parents willing to step out and counter their culture through education.

These positive experiences are impossible without sponsors supporting courageous women: giving them support, guidance, and encouragement. To have a supportive adult from across the globe support one of these girls, is a way to say, "I believe in you. I believe you can do it." These radical girls are giving up a piece of their culture, and often all ties with their family to attempt an arduous task that could bring incredible change - education. Your sponsorship says, "It will be ok, you got this."

Someone once told me that to present an idea, it is best to make a sandwich. By that they meant: start with the bread, perhaps some tasty condiments, then the meat, finishing off again with some bread.

Today, I want to present you with a sandwich of information. I will begin by trying to express the most genuine and sincere appreciation from our teachers, graduates, and students. I will then go into some stories (the meat of the sandwich). Some of the stories have issues that are very uncomfortable. If you do not want to read these, I understand. Please then go to the other slice of bread at the bottom.

I have wanted to share some of these stories with you for years but haven't found the proper time. For whatever reason (perhaps motivation from our recent visit) I feel it is time to give you some of the "meat" of OBA. Thank you for your time and thank you for your courage to explore some of these issues. Please take care as you read the following stories:

Story 1: A young girl is currently 16 years old. She is from North Central Tanzania. Her father has 6 wives and 48 children. Her bride price was paid when she was in standard 5 (Primary school) She was only 13 years old. She was forced to be circumcised then a forced pregnancy when she was in Standard 7, during the Covid pandemic holiday. She didn't have someone to help at the time because the communication was very poor and no one was there to advise her what to do. She and her



OBA group meeting with MGLSS graduates who have established an agricultural Non-Profit Organization called TAA.

daughter are now safe and are recovering at a safe house that provides food, clothing, personal hygiene care as well as the opportunity to change her and her child's trajectory through education.

Story 2: After years of being sexually trafficked, this young woman (16 year old girl) sought shelter at the Courage House in the Moshi area of Tanzania. There, she and her son have been recovering in a safe, supporting environment. OBA has been providing her school fees to attend a trade school studying Hotel Management. In addition, her son has a scholarship to attend an English medium school, completely changing their future. An educational scholarship is providing hope and opportunity for both these kids.

Story 3: Olchoki Primary School in the Arusha area of Northern Tanzania has 1,400 children attending everyday. It is a poor community and meals at home are not necessarily assumed. They had a pass rate of 40-50% year after year for decades until OBA started a lunch program. Not only did attendance and nutrition improve, the pass rate has consistently improved to over 90%.

Story 4: After years of drought in Madagascar, for the first time in living history, even the cacti were dying. When drought gets this extreme, after the second planting season passes without rain, people regress to survival foods. In this case cactus. However, when they began to wilt and die, the people started eating nuts from one of the remaining trees in their environment. But the nuts are very acidic so they mix clay with the ground nuts, adjusting the PH so their stomachs could stand the bitter concoction. They were literally eating dirt. When we learned about the extent of the drought, and famine, we called every non-profit organization we knew and many others, hoping we could divert some of their resources to our schools. However, because of COVID-19, all humanitarian groups were sent home. There wasn't anyone on the island of Madagascar to help. It became obvious that we needed to do this ourselves. After 2 weeks of exhausting our options, OBA formulated a plan for a lunch program to feed our 5 schools and 1,000 students. It took another week to transport the food from the north. (There are 1.7 million people in the Deep South and we couldn't purchase a bag of rice locally) In the 3 weeks it took to make this happen, 9 children died of malnutrition. What would sponsoring a lunch program mean to these kids and their parents?



It is easy to say OBA does education. It is easy to think about the smiles of children in school. However, the reality of our work is much harder. The effects, however, are MUCH greater and the impact is MUCH more profound.

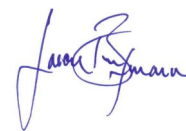
The value of sponsorships is extremely powerful. It is perhaps one of the most important things you can do.

Now, to leave you with a tasty piece of bread...

As we traveled throughout northern Tanzania last October, we met 7 women who were recipients of donor provided scholarships. These were professional women in careers providing them income, prestige and the ability to create the change they want to see in their country. They were doctors, teachers, accountants, architects, entrepreneurs, and more. They have all been empowered through education and are now actively passing it forward. It works. We are now seeing the effects of sponsorships from 30 years ago. Keep it going.



Executive Director
Jason Bergmann



**How many lions can you find
in the picture to the left?**

(answers on back page)

Donor Contribution — Havalin Haskell



OBA's youngest known donor, seventeen year old Havalin Haskell, grew up in a family with a history of service. She and her eight cousins would gather at Christmas and read aloud the charitable donations that

had been made in their names. For her, it was a fun tradition, until something clicked in her head in fifth grade. She asked her parents what "MGLSS" was, not knowing anything about the institution that they were donating to in her name. They explained the Maasai culture to her, and that young girls are expected to marry after primary school. They told her the Maasai Girls' School was a place girls could go to escape that fate, and continue their academic journey.

After learning the difference between her culture compared to Tanzania, she saw the true value of education. This made her realize the importance of knowledge and that she was privileged to have such easy access to many different types of education. Ever since that profound realization, she wanted to be an active member of a sponsorship for a young girl, Diana.

Diana Peter is now 21 years old. In terms of schooling, they are at the same level, university.

They have always been parallel, growing up together through letters and photos. Diana has been writing letters to Havalin since she was a 14 year old Form 1 student at MGLSS. All of the letters have been saved and cherished.

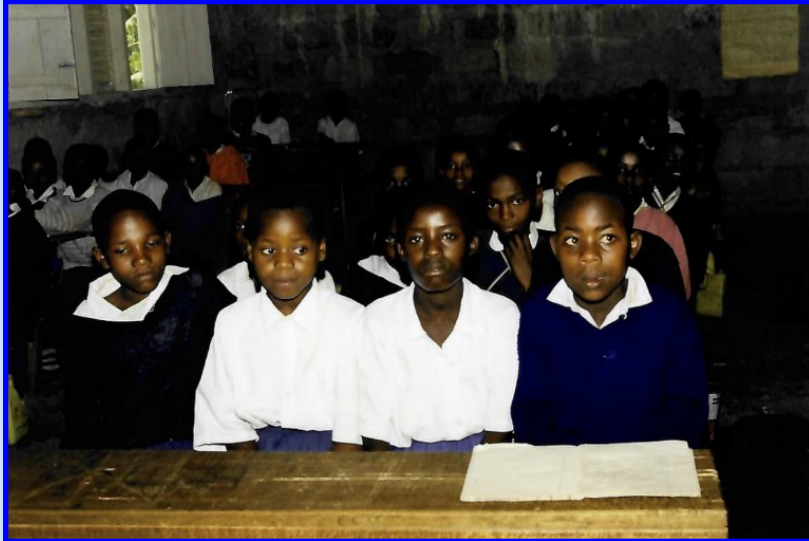
This year, Havalin had trouble dealing with the reality that in Tanzania, you do not get to choose the path you want to follow professionally. Diana wanted to be a pilot, but the market is predominately male. Diana is studying urban design, even though she has never lived in a traditional community. National Examinations place you in the program and career that you are best suited for according to your scores.

Earlier this year Havalin traveled to Tanzania and finally met Diana. She described it as "perfect". When Havalin saw Diana across the street in her traditional Maasai dress she ran to meet her in a shared tearful embrace. Diana grabbed her hand and they walked together. Outside they sat and caught each other up on their lives. Havalin showed her photos of the beautiful snow in her home state of Colorado. Diana and her parents brought beautiful gifts for Havalin and her family.

Diana's parents left after dinner, but she remained with her dear friend. Rain fell and the two young women stayed up together reminiscing and enjoying their profound meeting.

Havalin has a desire to be a teacher or work for a foundation. After her trip to Tanzania she wants to live part of her life abroad.

Blast From the Past



Students at Olchoki Primary School in Fall 1999



Students at Olchoki Primary School eating Lunch in January 2020

Largest Graduating Class in

MGLSS History

On the sweltering day of October 22nd, 67 Form 4 students walked tall as they entered the ceremony area set up on the basketball courts at the MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). These young women had nervous smiles as they saw the hundreds of guests attending an event to witness their crowning achievement.



Usually about 80-85% of MGLSS students in Form 4 pass and are able to graduate in October. For the first time in MGLSS history, 100% of the students in Form 4 were able to complete their academic year with success and walk in the graduation ceremony! This massive accomplishment would not have been possible without their hard work, dedication, motivation, and support from their sponsors. OBA is grateful to be able to have been able to behold these students pass into the next stage of their academic journey. Executive Director, Jason Bergmann, was also thrilled to be able to witness his sponsored student graduate! It was a tearful moment when it was announced she had performed second best in her class.

After their graduation from Form 4 they completed an exam schedule that dictates if they are eligible to move on to Form 5. If they do not achieve a high score they will not move to the next level in secondary education, but they will be given the option to attend a technical or vocational school to continue their learning. These institutions are a great place to start their career knowledge and learn independent living skills. As soon as the exam results are available, OBA will distribute them to the sponsors of the Form 4 graduates. We have utter faith that this record breaking class of empowered women will do great things in Tanzania and all over the world. Congratulations class of 2022!

Dr. Seth “Babu” Msinjili

I have met dignitaries, adventurers, bishops, governors, principals, CEOs, pilots, surgeons, accountants, architects, and hundreds of people in other vocations. Though I revere so many of the people I have met during my tenure at OBA, there is one that stands above the rest: Dr. Seth Msinjili. The headmaster for twelve years at MGLSS and before that Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, Dr. Msinjili has given his entire career to the service of underserved young people in need, especially Maasai girls.

Seth would be very upset to know that I would honor him with an article, but these truths must be stated. Msinjili is a man of passion who wears his heart on his sleeve. Many who know him can confirm that he is the most humble gentleman on the face of the planet. Though he has dedicated his entire life to others, he asks for nothing in return. Each time a guest visited MGLSS Seth would welcome them with open arms; however, the students have always been his number one priority. As soon as you heard the words, “Babu! Babu!” on the other side of his door, he would kindly ask you to pause so he could help the student in need. I have never minded the interruptions because every moment spent waiting was a confirmation of love, trust, and loyalty between the students and their “Babu”. (meaning grandfather in Swahili)

The day of the Form 4 graduation the staff of MGLSS and the North Central Lutheran Arusha Diocese decided to commemorate Seth’s time as headmaster. Msinjili retired on August 31st of this year, but is still very present as his replacement, Tulizaeli Mbise, takes the reigns. Tulizaeli and her staff presented Dr. Msinjili with gifts and gave speeches relaying their reverence to the previous headmaster. Though many nice words and gifts were given, the most notable gift was a large clock with the MGLSS emblem carved into it. After gift giving, Seth was asked to speak to the crowd to give his farewell speech. His words were brief, but filled with many emotions. After his address, there was hardly a dry eye to be seen.



Seth accepting a clock commissioned for him by the staff at MGLSS.

Many previous MGLSS graduates attended the ceremony to celebrate their Babu’s achievements. Watching the accomplished alumni, current students, staff, and friends weep at his words was moving and cathartic. How do you commemorate a man that has spent the last twelve years answering the phone at all hours of the night when the students needed him? A man who always find a way to serve girls in dire need? A man who wants for nothing other than the betterment of underserved students? After the ceremonies were finished there was a small dinner. After eating, the OBA team presented Seth with a certificate that dedicated the sponsorship of an MGLSS student in his name. His smile was infectious after hearing that news. The scholarship dictates that one young lady in need will be sponsored from Form 1 until she has completed her education. After she has completed her schooling, another girl will be chosen for the scholarship. This scholarship will allow Dr. Seth Msinjili to serve Maasai girls in need for all years to come.

If you would like to contribute to the Dr. Seth Msinjili Endowed Scholarship, contact the OBA office or make a donation with “Dr. Seth Msinjili Endowed Scholarship” in the memo. -Briana Engh


The Power Of

SPONSOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT. CHANGE THEIR LIFE FOREVER

For \$100 a month, you can sponsor a secondary student at MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School!

Since MGLSS was built in 1995, OBA donors have been sponsoring a portion of the student population. In late 2018, OBA leadership and the Board of Directors decided that OBA would be fiscally responsible for every student at the school. With all of the girls on OBA sponsorship, they are on the same playing field. These students are all making the hard choice to leave their village and families in order to escape child marriage. By sponsoring a brave, young, Maasai woman, you are validating their choice to pursue an education and career. Your bond will grow, and you will learn many things about each others' cultures, families, and personalities. Sponsorship is a vehicle for change. This is likely the biggest change that a Maasai girl will ever face, and the support of a sponsor is invaluable. Change a life today by becoming a sponsor. 



Traditionally, OBA has been an organization that has focused on sponsoring secondary school students. Two years ago, we reinvigorated our relationship with Best School Academy. This Kenyan school is surrounded by community members and parents who see the value of education, and are invested in the school's success. In all ways possible, they make sure their students are well cared for: they even helped build the classrooms and dug the latrine. As much as they have done for the students, the parents do not have the funds to cover school supplies, uniforms, teacher salaries, and school fees. OBA is proud of the students at Best School Academy. Over the years, they have shown dedication and promise. We would like to lessen the load of the community and families of the students through sponsorship. You can sponsor them from Preschool all the way to Standard 6 for only \$30 a month. As they grow, so will your relationship with them. The students are happy to send drawings once a year and letters as soon as they learn enough English to write. Your contribution will benefit the school and create opportunities for their students. Sponsorship is truly a gift that keeps on giving. 



SPONSOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT. GIVE THEM THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

For \$30 a month, you can sponsor a primary student today!

A Sponsor

School days in Madagascar begin at 7 AM and end at 5 PM, with a 1 or 2 hour lunch break in between, depending on the local norms. Most students and teachers do not return home for lunch or bring a meal, due to the long journey home and lack of food or money. It is normal for students and teachers to walk over an hour to attend school, arriving home after dark; therefore, it is not uncommon for students and teachers to go 12 hours without food or clean water. All of this is done while teaching, learning, and traveling (that is if they eat both breakfast and dinner).

Each OBA Primary School in Madagascar has one teacher for multiple grade levels and classes, with an average teacher to student ratio of 1 to 394. Each day has four “blocks” (classes), each lasting roughly 2 hours. Later in the publication, you will read the Madagascar Musings article. There, you can read more about the plight of the Malagasy education system. Teachers complain of lack of supplies (chalk, chalkboards, pens and paper), leaky roofs, drafty walls, insufficient space for students, inadequate curriculum materials, and most importantly...working hard and not being able to provide sustenance for their families.

Teachers often work for multiple months without receiving any compensation. Even tenured teachers endure inconsistent salaries. Their passion precedes their need for pay. Everyday they walk for hours on an empty stomach to teach the next generation of Malagasy students. Staff work in crumbling buildings, write on wooden planks with nubs of chalk, and struggle to make ends meet because they believe in the future of Madagascar.

SPONSOR A TEACHER. CHANGE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN MADAGASCAR

For \$100 a month you can sponsor a teacher's salary.



Miza
Anakaby



Hantamalala
Nirina
Sylvie



Tovodreny
Ginette



Randrianantenaina
Joelison



Mr. Refandetse

Construction Updates

Teacher Housing Completed at MGLSS



For years Headmaster Seth Msinjili and Assistant Headmaster Tulizaeli Mbise came to OBA with a dire need. Many of their teachers were staying in apartments in Monduli away from their families during the week, unable to make the long journey home after school. MGLSS offers a competitive salary but is not able to provide a pension to the teachers. Therefore, it is difficult to recruit top level teachers. Most teachers have to travel to work, while their families live far from campus. If MGLSS could provide housing, the teachers wouldn't need to spend money on an apartment in Monduli and transportation to visit their families on the weekend. Additionally, if they were to live on campus, they would be more apt to provide tutoring and study sessions after

hours. The school leaders asked OBA if it would be possible for us to renovate the old agriculture building that had been sitting dormant for many years. OBA and the Board of Directors agreed that this was feasible and made a plan to help the teachers by going out to fundraise for the teacher housing project. We are happy to report that as of October 22nd, 2022 the new teacher housing unit has been opened! The housing was blessed by the Bishop at the Form 4 graduation ceremony. It has been outfitted with new plumbing and will be fully furnished through funds given by generous donors. Thank you for helping our amazing teachers!

Olarush Primary School Looks Brand New!



Olarush Primary School has served Maasai children on Monduli Mountain for decades. This small mountain school is placed on a very dusty part of the mountainside, and is prone to high winds. Over time, the school had seen a lot of wear and tear. This year they started doing repairs on the exterior and interior of the school buildings. The results were staggering! After these improvements were made the painting began! While visiting the school in

October, OBA saw community members working hard to get the paint on the classrooms. The buildings looked refreshed and new! Last year when OBA visited the school there were many students who were crammed into the desks that had been there since the opening of the school. There were some that held 5 students in one desk. This year, we are happy to say that the classrooms have been furnished with new desks, and the students are happy and comfortable. Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen!





Madagascar

The start of the latest school year has been an historical and memorable one for OBA's 5 primary schools in Southern Madagascar. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, two brand new schools were constructed! Each school was completed with brand new desks, tables, and chairs, multiple classrooms, an office, and even included water basins and gutters for collecting rainwater for the surrounding village community.



While we are celebrating the successful completion of these two new schools, three more communities are in need of adequate school buildings to meet local educational standards. The constant onslaught of hurricane force winds are continuing to

damage the existing school buildings. Teachers and students have to deal with lack of space, improper seating, crumbling walls and damaged roofs. With generous support from OBA donors the final school buildings can be completed and children the quality of education in Southern Madagascar can improve.



OBA is continuing to provide teacher salaries, school supplies, and daily meals of rice, corn, beans, and other vegetables. Due to the success of the School Lunch Programs, high quality education, and outstanding school buildings, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of students attending each school over the summer. Overall, attendance has risen by over 57% over the summer! With your continued partnership we can keep accepting new students and feeding communities.



The drought that began in 2020 is still dire, with no signs of abating. This presented an opportunity for OBA to team up with partners in Madagascar as well as

Minnesota to begin well water projects. After several attempts, suitable underground water sources were discovered at two school sites. Potable water has been reached and wells have been dug. Pumps, solar panels, and drip irrigation systems have just been shipped and will be utilized this school year, with groundbreaking to begin on more sites in the future if funding comes through.



Musings



This drought presented another collaboration opportunity with our Malagasy counterparts. OBA funded a reforestation project in one of our school communities. With training provided by local specialists, Malagasy farmers planted three tree varieties: Moringa Trees for food, Eucalyptus Trees for firewood, and Acacia Trees for shelter and protection. The trees are growing well considering the harsh

environment, and recently another crop of small trees were planted from the original seeds.



LEARN THE MALAGASY LANGUAGE



Did you know that Malagasy numbers are spoken and written from the smallest digit to the largest digit?

For example, the number eighteen is written with words and spoken as "eight and ten" (valo amby folo). However, the numbers are still written left to right (18) along with the rest of the Malagasy language.

So, following this pattern, the year 1972 would be written and spoken as "two and seventy and nine-hundred and one thousand" (roa amby fitopolo sy sivanjato sy arivo). It is no surprise that French numbers are commonly used in business transactions throughout Madagascar, even in areas where French is not widely spoken or understood.



Madagascar Trivia

(answer on back page)

Can you name this famous landmark in Western Madagascar?

- A. Canopy Grove
- B. Acacia Lane
- C. Avenue of the Baobobs
- D. Ancient Oaks



Tiny Feet, Big Steps



Main Room at Neonatal Conference

Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) hosted Northern Tanzania's 3rd ever Neonatology Conference, "Tiny Feet, Big Steps", while Operation Bootstrap Africa was visiting Tanzania. All healthcare professionals specializing in the care of hospitalized neonates (Nursery, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) were encouraged to come to the conference. There were nearly 200 participants from three continents including nine East and West African countries. Dr. Stephen Swanson curated this incredible conference and invited OBA's traveling group to attend. The group arrived and was immediately impressed! The conference took place at the Gran Melia Hotel in Arusha. It was a grand building with many beautiful amenities. The meeting space was very western in style, with lots of floor to ceiling windows and large conference rooms for break out groups. The grand hall was full of neonatal front line workers who were excited to

attend. As we sat down after tea we listened to a wonderful presentation by a skilled voluntary midwifery instructor. She spoke about the importance of communication in the NICU, and how it was important to make sure that everyone helping a patient is briefed on their current status. She was knowledgeable and engaging. Next, Dr. Swanson addressed the room. He explained to the room that Tanzania had a poor history with neonatal care. The prime example he gave was the age of naming a child a "stillbirth". Any baby that is born 28 weeks or below is considered a stillborn, and is generally not operated on or attempted to be saved if born with complications. Dr. Stephen and his team were not satisfied with that process, and over the years have made sure that the NICU at ALMC is an institution that operates on these children and fights for their survival. Dr. Swanson said, thanks to the care of practitioners in the NICU, "there are hundreds of stillborn babies walking about in Arusha". The conference staff invited four mothers to participate in an open forum. These mamas shared their harrowing stories about delivering their child early and then staying in the NICU for months. During these hard months they relied on the staff at the ALMC NICU for most things. They tearfully gave thanks to the staff there. After the touching testimonies the audience was asked if they had any questions for the mamas. The audience was moved and had many questions to ask the women. One question that stuck out to me came from a Doctor in Uganda. She asked, "Is there anything you can recommend a doctor or NICU nurse should tell a mama in your position?" Each mom looked ready to answer the question, and they all answered similarly: "be patient with your mamas. Keep telling them the truth and keep giving them support. Most of them will be confused and difficult to deal with. Please just describe what you are doing and give them time to understand." These mothers were incredible women. At the end of their time, Dr. Swanson had the staff present each mama with kitenge fabric. They were honored and overjoyed to have helped the team who saved their babies, all who would have been considered "stillborn" without the right help.



Dr. Swanson watches mamas receive fabric with their children.

Nursing School Celebrates Crowning Achievement

On November 11th the Tanzanian Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC) met in Dodoma to recognize the top performing nursing student in the country, or "Best Student". This year the student who received this accolade was Nicanor Nashor Bakobwa!

Nicanor is a student at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing (ALMC SoN). He stood out amongst thousands of nursing students in Tanzania. He was not only recognized as Best Student pursuing a Nursing Diploma, he also received Best Student pursuing a Technician Certificate in Nursing. This was no small feat. OBA is so proud of each nurse that attends the ALMC SoN and are thrilled to see their hard work and dedication noticed. Well done Nicanor!



Nicanor (top middle) amongst the Tanzanian Nursing
and Midwifery Council



OBA Board Retreat 2022

Due to COVID-19, the OBA Board of Directors has not held their annual Board retreat since 2020. On September 30th, a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and OBA staff came together at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for a two day retreat. During this retreat the board and staff collaborated well and participated in exercises that would boost their knowledge of each other, challenge their thought processes and provide clarity on the OBA programs across Africa. This retreat was invigorating. Though some members were not able to attend in person, many met online and participated through Zoom. It was a triumph of team work.

Friend to OBA



Linda Jacobson was a special guest for the retreat and was a delight. OBA held dinner at their office on the 30th and was happy to fill their space with impassioned board members and their special guest. We look forward to implementing many great ideas discussed at the Board Retreat. Thank you to all who participated!



(From left to right) Stan Guimont, Dr. Jack McAllister, Gene Mickelson, Marlys Melius, Linda Jacobson, Jason Bergmann, Kjell Ferris, Aaron Bartholomew, and Briana Engh

Remember OBA in your Estate Planning!

Ways to Give:

- Give Directly from Your IRA—If you are 70^{1/2} or older your contribution will count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). You may contribute up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA. In some situations lowering your AGI may be more beneficial than itemizing charitable deductions.
- Make a Stock Contribution—Gifts of stock are generally tax deductible at the full fair-market value and exempt from long-term capital gains tax.
- Create a Donor Advised Fund—A donor advised fund allows your assets including cash, appreciated stock, mutual funds, real estate, and more to be invested and grow tax-free. Contributions to your fund are tax deductible in the year that they are made, but may be granted to eligible charitable organizations over a period of multiple years. Donor advised funds are a useful tool for donors who are affected by the new, higher standard deduction threshold and wish to combine multiple years worth of giving into one year in order to itemize.
- Legacy Gifts—Include a gift to OBA in your will or trust, designate OBA as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy, or give to the OBA Endowment Fund. InFaith Foundation.



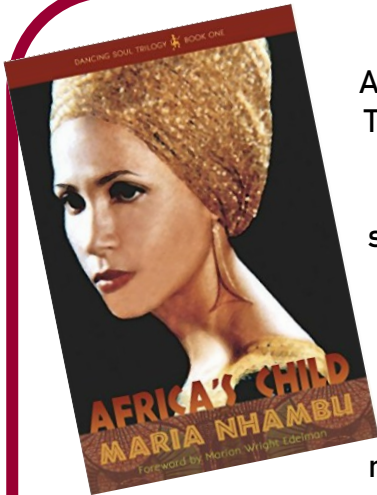
OBA is proud to have been recognized as a 4-star organization by Charity Navigator for 9 consecutive years, and for meeting the highest standards of financial health, transparency, and accountability. This puts us in the top 10% of all nonprofit organizations in the United States. We are a mission-driven organization, committed to ensuring your support goes where it is most needed!

For more information, please contact the OBA office.

Operation Bootstrap Africa and its affiliates are not financial advisors and cannot provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. Please consult your financial planner to learn how gifts to OBA may benefit your unique tax or financial situation.



Thank you for putting us in your estate. The little reminder cards cost a penny a piece. A small price to empower you to leave a legacy.



Africa's Child by Maria Nhambu

Africa's Child is the story of a mixed-race girl growing up in the Mountains of Tanzania. Raised in an orphanage with no knowledge of her origins or family, she endured abandonment, hardships, severe illnesses, and bullying. Her experiences growing up included physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, social stigma, and racial discrimination. Yet Nhambu tells her inspiring story with warmth and humor. Her questioning mind probes the African tribal realities and multi-cultural complexities that impacted her life both at the orphanage and schools run by German nuns as well as at an African high school with American nuns. Her faith and resilience, along with a belief in learning and her tenacious pursuit of an education, sustained her through many challenges. Through the love and commitment of an American teacher she met in Africa, Nhambu was able to pursue her dream of education and a new life for herself. The first book in her three-part memoir ends as she is leaving Africa for university studies in America on a full scholarship.

OBA Chat System

On the most recent trip to Tanzania, OBA Program and Communications Specialist Briana Engh had a mission. She wanted to create chat profiles for each of the 354 students at MGLSS with an OBA sponsor. This was no easy feat, but with the generosity of the staff at Hyrac Tech and the MGLSS Computer Teacher Helen Lukumay, they were able to complete the project in just two days! The chat system will allow sponsors and students to interact and connect while building a strong relationship. There is a portal that will allow both parties to attach photos and share their experiences in real time. Now that the girls have created their profiles, the next step will be to set up profiles for the sponsors. OBA will be initiating this step soon, so make sure that we have your current email address! You can reach us at info@bootstrapafrica.org to make sure that you are receiving all of the OBA chat updates.



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OBA

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Dignity is a publication for friends of OBA, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to helping people help themselves through a variety of educational programs in Africa.

In partnership with African communities and organizations, they provide support and assistance to projects and programs based on locally-established priorities.

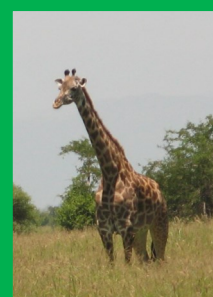
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Answer from page 2: There are 5 lions in the photo.

Answer from page 11: C. Avenue of the Baobobs



Join us for the experience of a lifetime in Tanzania!

Travel to Tanzania with OBA on a Discovery Tour! Visit our projects including schools and clinics, embark on safari to view some of the world's most abundant and beautiful wildlife, and engage in cultural activities.

Tours cost approximately \$5,000-\$6,000 per person, including airfare, meals, lodging, tips, and all land travel costs. Costs not covered include beverages, immunizations, anti-malarial medication, a Tanzanian tourist visa, and travel insurance. A Zanzibar extension and other optional excursions may be arranged at an additional cost. Tours are limited to 10 participants. Contact the OBA office for more information. or to secure your spot on a future tour.

Upcoming Tours

May 2023
July 2023
October 2023